

Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) June 2021

This Information Bulletin (Information Bulletin #3 2021) provides updates regarding the 2021 distribution of the Wage Enhancement Grant (WEG) and the Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) in the City of London and the County of Middlesex by the Service System Manager.

For 2021, the Ministry of Education has increased the base wage and wage cap associated with WEG/HCCEG. Please see the details listed below for additional information. Readers are reminded that this information is subject to change without notice by the Ministry of Education.

Purpose

The Ontario government has made an ongoing funding commitment to support wage enhancement for eligible child care professionals working in licensed child care settings. The WEG/HCCEG will help retain Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs), and support access to stable, high-quality child care programs for children in Ontario. The wage enhancement will also help to close the wage gap between RECEs working in the kindergarten program and RECEs/other child care program staff working in licensed child care settings.

Goals

The goals of the enhancement grant are to:

- **Close the wage gap** between RECE wages in the education sector and licensed child care sectors;
- **Stabilize licensed child care** operators by helping them retain RECEs/child care staff; and,
- Support **greater employment and income** security.

Eligibility

All licensed child care centres and home child care agencies are eligible to apply for WEG/HCCEG funding, regardless of participation in municipal quality initiatives, or current purchase of service status.

New licensed centres or agencies are eligible to apply for WEG/HCCEG in the year the program begins operations. For example, licensed child care agencies that establish and begin operations in 2021 are eligible to apply for wage enhancement funding in 2021.

Eligibility criteria is used to determine entitlement (based on hours/days worked in 2020) **and** to determine payments to staff in 2021.

Please note: Information on privately placed children must be considered when determining eligibility and payments for the HCCEG.

Full Home Child Care Enhancement Eligibility:

To be eligible to receive the **full HCCEG of \$20 per day**, child care providers must:

- Hold a contract with a licensed home child care agency;
- Provide services to one child or more (including privately placed children; excluding the provider's own children);
- Provide **full time services** on average (6 hours or more per day); **and**,
- Receive base daily fees of \$263.10, excluding the prior year's HCCEG, **or less** (i.e., \$20 below the cap of \$283.10)

Partial Home Child Care Enhancement Eligibility:

To be eligible to receive the **partial HCCEG of \$10 per day**, home child care providers must:

- Hold a contract with a licensed home child care agency;
- Provide services to one child or more (including privately placed children; excluding the provider's own children)
- Provide **part time services** on average (less than 6 hours per day); **and**,
- Receive base daily fees of \$159.86 excluding the prior year's HCCEG, **or less** (i.e., \$10 below the cap of \$169.86)

Ministry Supplemental Grant

The Ministry of Education provides a supplemental grant to licensed child care operators/agencies in the sum of **\$150** for each eligible home visitor FTE and **\$50** for each eligible home child care provider.

The supplemental grant is intended to support the Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) funding, by helping to address any shortfalls.

The supplemental grant can **only** be used toward **eligible positions** and will be attested to with all other HCCEG funding. Any unused supplemental grant funding will be recovered by the Service System Manager.

- Note: The Ministry of Education's definition of 1 FTE = 1,754.5 hours worked for the entire year (approximate number of working days in the year less 2 weeks vacation x 7.25 hrs/day).

Allowable Uses

All wage enhancement funding must be directed solely to eligible licensed home child care providers and home visitors to increase daily income. HCCEG funding **cannot** be used to support child care system expansion or reduce fees.

Licensed home child care agencies must use HCCEG funding for the intended purpose of providing a daily increase to income for eligible licensed home child care providers/home visitors, based on current hours of service provided. The daily increase to income cannot exceed \$20 per day or the daily cap of \$283.10 for "Full

Home Child Care Enhancement”, or \$10 per day or the daily cap of \$169.86 for “Partial Home Child Care Enhancement”.

Note: If an eligible home child care provider or home visitor subsequently stops the role, the licensed home child care operator/agency must terminate the transfer of HCCEG funds to the provider/home visitor.

Payout to Eligible Home Child Care Providers

Licensed home child care operators/agencies must include HCCEG on each payment made to providers/home visitors. The payment must clearly indicate that the funding is being provided through Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG), labeled as “**Provincial Home Child Care Wage Enhancement** or provide a separate letter that indicates this same information.

Licensed home child care operators/agencies are to fund HCCEG to their current year eligible providers, regardless of whether the provider had a contract with the agency in 2020. This means that an agency can pay a new licensed home child care provider who holds a contract with a licensed home child care agency and meets the Ministry’s eligibility guidelines.

Application Process

The Home Child Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG) Application Form will be posted to the City of London’s Children’s Services Child Care webpage and the County of Middlesex website on **June 4, 2021**.

Completed Applications are due by July 2, 2021 to: ChildrensServicesAdmin@london.ca

Please note that agencies that applied for WEG/HCCEG in 2020 are **still required** to apply again in 2021.